

Appl. No. 10/840,178  
Paper dated September 22, 2004  
Attorney Docket No. 2034-044072

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/840,178 Confirmation No. 7502  
Applicant : Roy H. Hammerstedt et al.  
Filed : May 6, 2004  
Title : Interrogation of Changes in the Contents of a Sealed Container  
Group Art Unit : 3728  
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned  
Customer No. : 28289

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 12 of this paper.

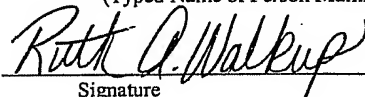
**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 15 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets.

**Remarks** begin on page 16 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 22, 2004.

Ruth A. Walkup

(Typed Name of Person Mailing Paper)



Signature

09/22/2004

Date

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0007] on page 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A device and method of the present invention allows evaluation of the contents of a sealed primary container by means of an integral sensor which is separated from the contents of the sealed primary container yet provides information on quality of the contents of the primary container without breaking the sealed system. The integral sensor device can be sealed into the seam of a blood bag or seam of another type of primary container. The integral sensor device includes a biosensor retained within a plastic construct by a gated-pore membrane. Pores in the membrane open in response to an environmental change in the primary container allowing the contents of the primary container to contact the biosensor. Status of the contents of the primary container can be determined by inspection of the biosensor, visually or via a fiber-optic probe, through the optical window of the plastic construct. --

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0011] on page 3:

-- Fig. 4a is a schematic representation of a device according to the present invention, which has been sealed in the seam of a blood bag, shown as a cut-away from the blood bag as a whole. --

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0012] on page 3:

-- Fig. 5a is a schematic representation of a device according to the present invention, which has been sealed in the seam of a blood bag, shown as a cut-away from the blood bag as a whole. --

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached set of Replacement Sheets (13) includes Figs. 4a and 5a. Figs. 4 and 5 of the originally filed application have been broken down into Figs. 4a and 5a. Please substitute the originally filed drawing sheets (11) containing Figs. 1 through 11 with the attached set of Replacement Sheets (13). No annotated sheets are enclosed since, although no new matter has been added, the schematic representations of Figs. 4 and 5 to Figs. 4a and 5a cannot be shown simply as changes on the originally-filed drawing sheets.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (13)

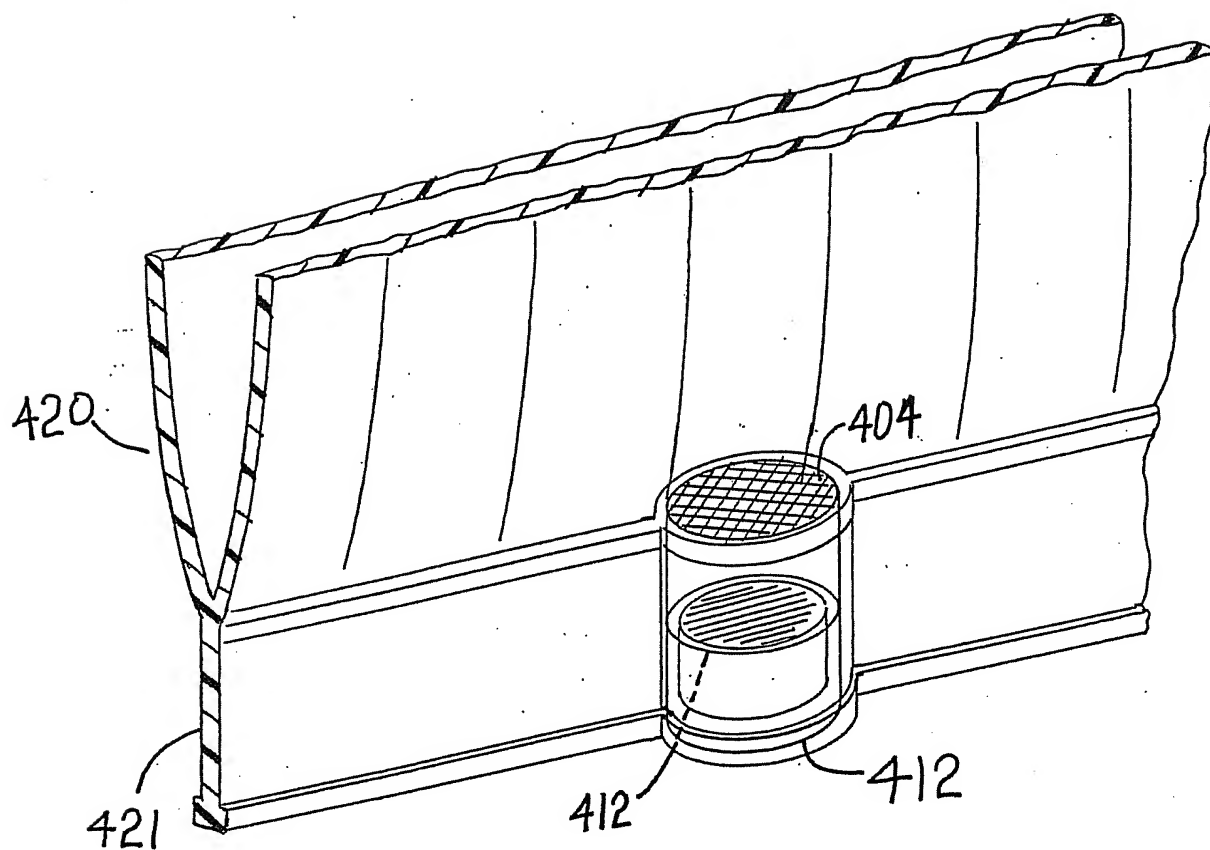


Fig 4a

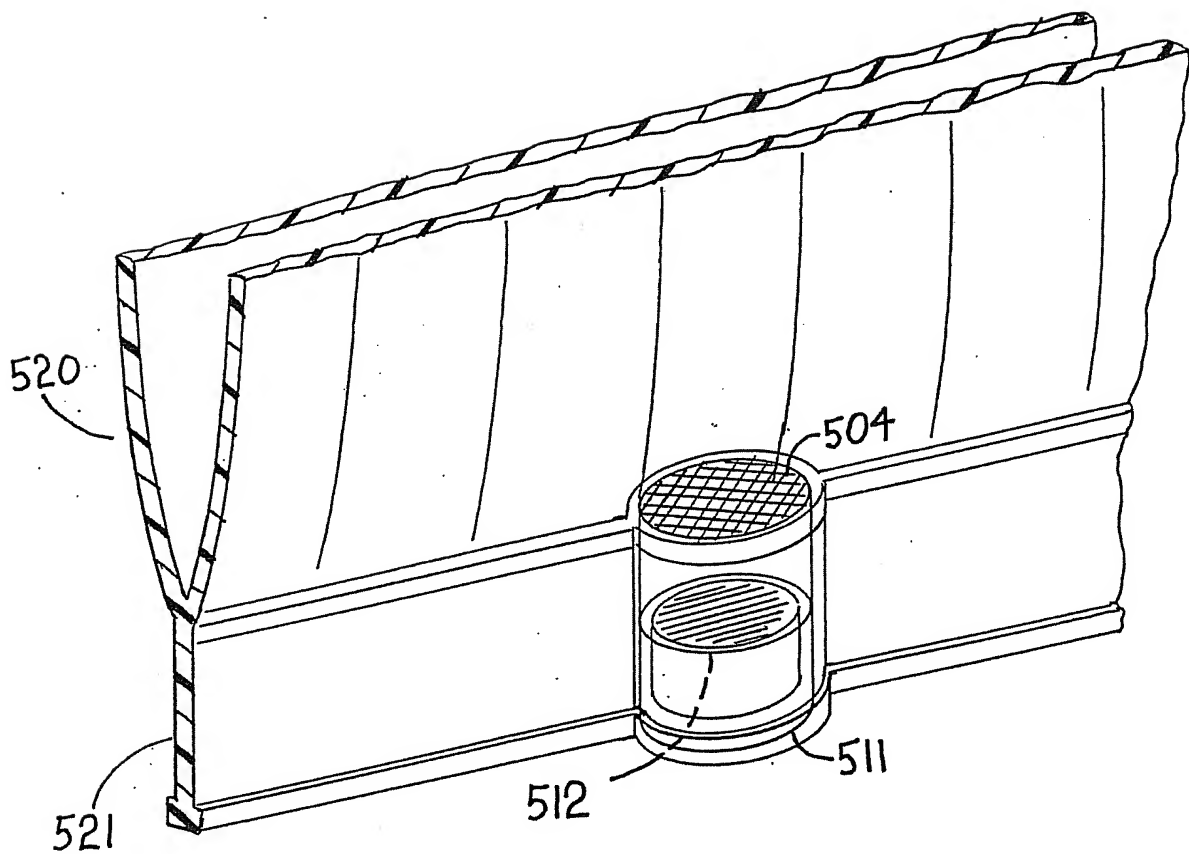


Fig 5a